



## Education and Training Voucher Program

Virginia Department of Social Services  
Independent Living Program  
Division of Family Services  
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Richmond, Virginia 23219  
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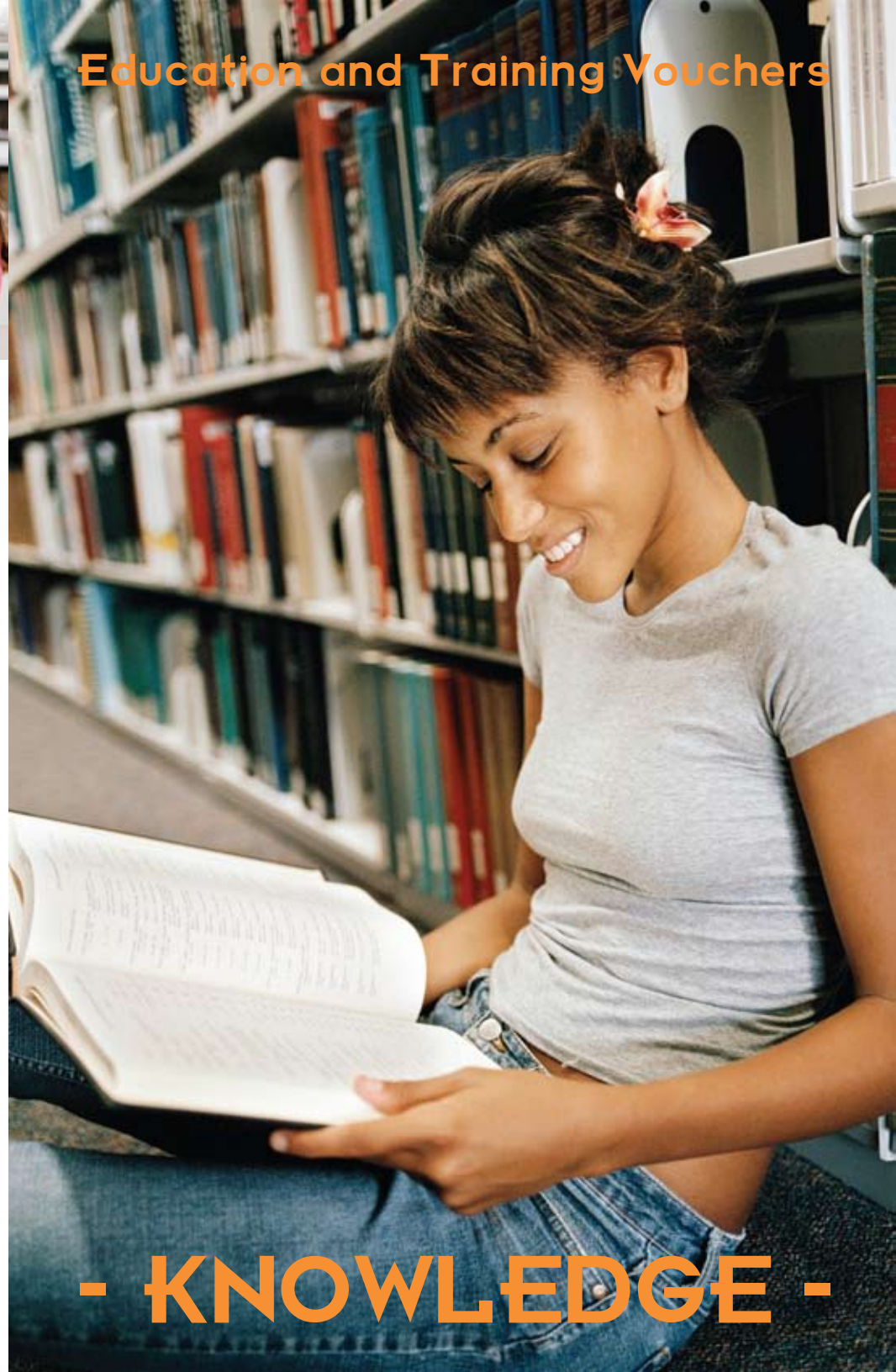
### About VDSS

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) administers social services programs, consistent with federal and state law and policy of the State Board of Social Services, through local departments of social services throughout the state and its home office in Richmond. The VDSS mission is "People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse, and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities."

### For More Information

If you have questions and would like more information about the Virginia Department of Social Services Education and Training Vouchers Program:

- Talk to your case worker or your independent living coordinator
- Online: [www.vailp.com](http://www.vailp.com)
- Email: [ilp.etv@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:ilp.etv@dss.virginia.gov)



# - KNOWLEDGE -



### **What Is The Education and Training Vouchers Program?**

The Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program financially assists eligible foster care and adopted youth with post-secondary education and training expenses, including:

- Colleges
- Universities
- Vocational Training Programs

ETV is a federal program with available funding of up to \$5,000 per eligible student each year. ETV financial awards are based on the unique needs of each student.

Youth participating in the ETV program before 21 years of age may be eligible to remain in the program until they turn 23 years of age, as long as they are enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program, and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of that program.

### **What Can ETV Pay For?**

ETV can be used for any of the following costs:

- Books
- Child Care
- Materials and Supplies
- Rental or Purchase of Required Equipment (including a computer)
- Required Residential Training
- Room and Board
- Special Study Projects
- Transportation
- Tuition and Fees

### **Who Is Eligible? Ages 16 Through 20 Are Eligible If:**

- Currently a U.S. citizen or can document a qualified non-citizen status
- Currently in or aging out of Virginia's foster care system
- Participate in a local department of social services independent living program
- Successfully achieve a high school diploma or equivalent, or general education development (GED) certificate
- Apply for financial aid through a post-secondary school or training program

### **Ages 21 Through 23 Are Eligible If:**

- Meet all eligibility requirements for (ages 16 through 20) with the exception of participating in a local department of social services independent living program.
- Participated in the ETV Program before reaching the age of 21

### **Adopted Youth**

Youth adopted from Virginia's foster care system after reaching the age of 16 are eligible for the ETV Program, as long as they meet the same eligibility requirements for foster youth and who would have been otherwise eligible for services under Virginia's Independent Living Program for Foster Youth.

### **What Is Required From Education and Training Voucher Recipients?**

In order to remain eligible, participants must continue to meet ETV guidelines and achieve satisfactory academic progress that is consistent with the institution's graduation requirements.

### **Before You Apply:**

Before applying for ETV funds, students should submit the free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available online at:  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

### **How To Apply:**

- Foster care youth ages 16 through 20 should submit a completed ETV student application with documentation to their local department of social services.
- Participants between 21 to 23 years of age, or adopted after reaching 16 years of age will be required to secure documentation from the local department of social services with which they were most recently active.
- Submit a completed ETV application, along with a copy of documentation to Virginia Department of Social Services - Independent Living Program.

### **Applications Are Available:**

- Online at: [www.vailp.com](http://www.vailp.com)
- Through A Local Department of Social Services Case Worker
- Through a Local Department of Social Services Independent Living Coordinator
- Email: [ilp.etv@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:ilp.etv@dss.virginia.gov)
- There is no application deadline, however, awards will be made based on funding availability and in the order applications were received.

